(a) whether the studies by the Central Mining Research Station, Dhanbad to fix inter-relationship of different parameters for achieving higher rate of stowing of sand in the coalmines have been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMA GOUDA): (a) to (d). The Central Mining Research Station (CMRS), Dhanbad, have informed that they have fabricated a small laboratory model for conducting preliminary scientific study relating to hydraulic sand stowing. The studies are in progress. These studies are to be extended finally for field trails and them only the inter-relationship of different parameters, if any, can be established.

Agreement with Japan

5543. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement have been signed with Japan during the last three years in the filed of electronics ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b). Government of India, Department of Electronics have not entered into any agreement with the Government of Japan in the field of electronics. However, 35 Indian firms have entered into foreign collaborations with Japanese companies in electronic items viz. Colour Picture Tubes, Audio Tape Deck Mechanism, Digital microwave equipments, electronic switches, Soft/Hard ferrits, floppy disk drives etc.

Accident in Indian Petrochemicals Ltd. Nagothane

5544. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRI DHARAMPAL SINGH MALIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of persons died in an accident which took place in IPCL's new plant at Nagothane, Maharashtra in 1990;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry into the causes of the accident has since been held; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes Sir. 32 persons died in the accident.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government is examining the report submitted by the Enquiry Committee. In the meanwhile an Action Plan is being drawn by for I.P.C.L. to implement the recommendations of the Committee for improvement in process/plant safety and emergency procedures.

[*Translation*]

Growth Rate of Orissa

5545. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: